

SANITARY CONFERENCE.

Second Annual Meeting of the State, County and Municipal Body.

The conference convened at Paso Robles, at 10 o'clock Monday, April 18, and also held afternoon and evening sessions.

After a speech of welcome by Dr. Regensburger, president of the State Board of Health, Dr. J. W. Ward of San Francisco read a paper on "Food Adulteration." Dr. George H. Evans of San Francisco, in discussing the paper, said that vicious adulteration of food products is very extensive and dangerous. "We may talk a great deal, and read many papers, but something practical and actual must be done. Something ought to be done to counteract the work of the lobby against the Heyburn bill. The most important matter is the organization of the medical profession. I would suggest that resolutions commending the Heyburn bill be drawn up and passed by this conference."

Dr. Von Adelung of Oakland said he must rise and move that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions commending the Heyburn bill, and forward same to Congress.

Dr. Philip Mills Jones referred to the Auxiliary Legislative Committee of the A. M. A., outlining the purposes and work of the committee, explaining that through this medium it is now possible to get direct and cooperative action on important legislative measures.

Dr. John Haynes of Los Angeles remarked that "boodile" is the strong thing in politics. Oregon had an excellent plan, allowing the people to introduce legislation by a seven per cent vote of the people. "We should pass a constitutional amendment permitting the people to vote upon such questions. Determined effort by medical men will permit of such an amendment, and will permit of proper pure food legislation."

Mr. Denicke of San Francisco: "This will be of no avail unless the manner of electing judges is changed. Our judges will not hold prisoners charged with these offenses, when brought before the bar. This should not be a State, but a National question. The federal courts are the only ones that can be relied upon."

Dr. LeMoynes Wills, Los Angeles, said in explanation that this conference wanted to draft a law giving the State Board of Health power to do something; at present it has no power.

The resolutions proposed by Drs. Evans and Von Adelung were passed.

Dr. Wills moved that all Representatives and Senators, and Senator Heyburn, be memorialized at once.

Dr. Simpson moved the appointment of a committee to draft a letter to be signed by everyone present.

"Sanitary Milk, from a Dairyman's Standpoint," was the title of a paper read by Mr. Pierce of Riverside, who referred to the value of lands in favored localities, and led up to the matter of producing good milk at a profit. He said the cost of keeping the best stock is no more than the cost of keeping poor, and good milk is in demand. Our climate is so good that herds should be in good health. All apparently sick cows should be at once removed. Holstein cattle are rugged and healthy and good milk and butter producers. The construction of barns is important; light, cleanliness and ventilation are important points. Most impurities get into milk after it leaves the cow and before it leaves the barn. The air in stables is one source of contagion. A pure water supply is important. Prompt and rapid cooling is very essential. As the proposition of a business man, he finds that it pays to produce the best.

In the discussion, Mr. Powers, Los Angeles, said: "If every dairyman would do as the reader, the problem would be solved. Too many people do not care for the quality of their milk product, but only for the money. There should be means provided for compelling these men to supply clean and sanitary milk. Milkmen are often filthy and careless. They should be compelled to be clean. The first milk from the udder should be poured out; it contains the great majority of germs. I have milked cows in proper manner and the milk has stayed pure and sweet for ten to fourteen days. Inspection should be sufficient to insure clean work."

Dr. Philip Mills Jones, San Francisco, read, by request, the paper of Dr. Geo. H. Aiken, Fresno, on "Milk Supply and Sanitation of the Dairy."

Dr. Regensburger said it was simply murder to put out the sort of milk that is being supplied in many places. Most dairies are simply filthy and nasty beyond expression. The petty vendor should be done away with, but he will fight against any legislation.

Dr. L. M. Powers, Los Angeles, laid special stress on handling milk by improper persons, small dealers, etc. He reported the dissemination of diphtheria by a milk dealer in Los Angeles, the cultures coming from the throats of all the dairyman's family and the milker. Refilling bottles is a very dangerous thing and it is hard to catch the drivers doing it.

Dr. George H. Evans, San Francisco, had investigated but could find no dealer supplying good milk or keeping a proper dairy, and was surprised and pleased to hear the paper of Mr. Pierce and learn there was one proper dairy, at least, in the State. Boards of Health should look also for bacteria and not make chemical composition the only standard.

Dr. Wills, Los Angeles, said the public wants cheap milk, and does not care about impurities. Legislation will do no good in curing the evil. Some prosecutions can be forced.

Dr. Simpson of San Jose said the dairy furnishing the infected milk at Stanford was largely patronized, and people urged the health officer to permit the dairyman to continue selling milk. Typhoid contagion of both the well and milk were undoubted.

Dr. Philip Mills Jones called attention to the Department of Agriculture report on milk supplies of cities. No legislation seems to offer so much promise of relief as the plan of certification of properly conducted dairies and milk coming within reasonable standards.

At the afternoon session, Dr. Von Adelung discussed vaccination, and exhibited packages of virus from various sources of supply, and commented on their relative merits.

"Practical Disinfection," by Dr. W. Simpson, San Jose, and "Quarantine in Smallpox," by Dr. L. M. Power, Los Angeles, were papers covering these important subjects very fully.

The balance of the program was as follows, but owing to demand on the JOURNAL's pages no abstract of the subjects discussed can be made in this issue:

"Collection and Registration of Vital Statistics," by Dr. O. Stansbury, Chico; "Medical Legislation," by Hon. W. I. Foley, Los Angeles; "Pollution of Public Water Supplies," by Dr. Thos. Ross, Sacramento; "Prevention of Tuberculosis," by Dr. C. C. Browning, Highland; "Medical Examination of School Children," by Dr. Mary R. Butin, Madera.

After the program was concluded at the evening session, a business meeting was held, at which Dr. LeMoynes Wills of Los Angeles was elected president of the conference.